

**VOTING MODERNIZATION BOARD  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
SECRETARY OF STATE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
June 19, 2002  
10:00 am**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pérez.

**II. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

Roll call administered by Debbie Parsons.

Present: Alby, Bustamante, Cunneen, Finney, Pérez  
Absent: none

A quorum was established.

**III. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE – Tal Finney**

Undersecretary of State, Bob Jennings, administered oath of office to Tal Finney.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Pérez opened up public comment.

- Dan Kysor, California Council for the Blind, discussed the importance of the counties using the DRE technology voting systems for the blind and visually impaired voters and allow them accessibility to vote. He urged the members to guarantee the blind and visually impaired voters their civil rights to vote privately and confidentially and that every polling place should be required to commit to one voting machine per polling place for the blind and visually impaired.
- Taymour Ravandi, Protection and Advocacy Inc., discussed the voting concerns about lack of access to polling places, polling booths and voting machines.
- John Ulin, Heller Ehrman, spoke on behalf of disability rights groups and favored the DRE systems and secret ballots guaranteed by the U.S. constitution.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Adoption of minutes**

M/S Alby/Cunneen to adopt minutes.

Aye: Alby, Bustamante, Cunneen, Pérez

Nay: none  
Abstention: Finney

Motion passes.

**b. Conflict of Interest Code and Statement of Economic Interest**

Steve Trout gave update on the conflict of interest code, form 700. The members are not required to file but the Secretary of State encourages them to do so with the Political Reform Division.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS**

John Mott-Smith announced that the new Prop 41 website is up and will provide all the materials and announcements from the meetings. He explained the various handouts and charts with the calculations and how they were made. The distinction of polling places and precincts were made. The Secretary of State staff gave a recommendation for the precinct formula the Board should adopt for the allocation of funds to the counties. The precinct base encourages future list maintenance and removal of deadwood from the voter rolls. It also includes money for absentee systems, mail ballot precincts and counts population growth.

**a. FINALIZE APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT – CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO COUNTIES TO UPDATE VOTING SYSTEMS**

Chairman Pérez opened up public comment.

- Jim Knox, Common Cause, wants the replacement of prescored punchcards to have priority, as he indicates was intended by Prop 41. The nine counties should have top priority, the counties with the largest population next, those with the least reliable machines next, and then those that have tested DRE machines.
- Pete Kutras, County of Santa Clara, distributed written comments regarding the need for the nine decertified counties to have priority and receive at least 55% of the \$200 million.
- Conny McCormack, Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, didn't favor the precinct formula and said LA has the largest number of voters in precincts. She urged the Board to use the registered voters formula, subtracting out permanent absentee voters. Also supports giving special consideration to the nine decertified counties.
- Mischelle Townsend, Riverside County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, prefers population base formula or eligible voters because all taxpayers are repaying the state for the bond money. Since changing to touchscreens, Riverside County has had five recounts and no lawsuits.
- Sally McPherson, San Diego County Registrar of Voters, one of the decertified counties, supports special consideration to the

nine counties. Urged the Board to not use the polling places formula, doesn't serve voters, and does support any other formula.

- Grant W. Wilson, interested visually impaired citizen, who does not always receive absentee ballot and favors providing DRE systems in every polling place.
- Dan Tokaji, ACLU, provided written testimony to the Board, favors giving the nine decertified counties special consideration and didn't think the formula based system would work.
- Bob Planthold, C.I.A.P.A., wants machines to be adaptable and useable to the blind. Touchscreen is most reliable. The disabilities constituency has been totally left out of consideration and not all polling places are accessible, being force to vote absentee. At a minimum, make sure a DRE system is in each polling place.
- Jesse Durazo, Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, deferred comments until next meeting.
- Edward E. Johnston, County of Kern, urged the Board to stay on schedule with the allocation of funds, they are ready to convert to DRE, waiting on funding. The nine counties are important, but so are other 49, and if they get priority, there will be no money left over for the other counties. Supports population, eligible and registered voters formulas.
- John Tuteur, Napa County, supports registered voters formula.
- Lorraine Jewett-Burdick, Nevada County, stressed the importance of rural counties and prefers the polling place or precinct formula. Would like to switch to touchscreens.
- Candace Grubbs, Butte County, did not agree with Santa Clara's formula. In June 2001 Butte County had successful DRE election and conducted a survey, 95% of the voters approved of the new system.
- Marsha Wharff, Mendocino County, has not found a system yet that meets the counties' needs. Believe the voters do not like touchscreens.
- Steve Rodermund, Orange County, doesn't think the nine counties should have preference. Their county uses Datavote and are worried that Common Cause and similar groups will come after them to try and decertify their system. The Board needs to look at proportionately all counties to benefit. Orange County does not give equal access to visually impaired.
- Debby Hench, San Joaquin County, uses optical scan, needs to change to touchscreen to reduce paper costs that have skyrocketed, and prefers the precinct funding formula.
- Jason Lu, Digital Voting Systems, discussed his companies technology and fast voting machines, the faster a machine, the fewer needed at polling places.
- Brad Clark, Alameda County, does not believe the nine counties should have preference. In terms of allocation of funds, the most equitable way is to use eligible voters, not registered voters, and

not to subtract absentee voters. The registered voters formula rewards those counties with poor list maintenance.

Public comment closed.

M/S Pérez/Bustamante to chair this item until the next meeting.

Aye:	Alby, Bustamante, Finney, Pérez
Nay:	None
Not voting:	Cunneen

Motion passes.

**b. FINALIZE VOTING MODERNIZATION PLAN**

M/S Pérez/Bustamante to pass on this item until the next meeting.

Aye:	Alby, Bustamante, Finney, Pérez
Nay:	None
Not voting:	Cunneen

Motion passes.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

M/S Bustamante/Alby to adjourn.

Aye:	Alby, Bustamante, Finney, Pérez
Nay:	None
Not Voting:	Cunneen

Chairman Pérez adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Debbie Parsons

A tape transcript of the meeting is available on request.

B&E/VMBminutes2ndmeeting